

has already shown, the locality heretofore assigned to it is quite incorrect; and secondly, that in comparing my bird with *Chauna derbiana* I had only the figure (Gray & Mitchell, Genera of Birds, pl. 161) to go by, no description ever having been published of this species, and that the figure is much too darkly coloured, particularly on the lower parts.

It follows, therefore, that there are only two known species of this curious form:—

1. *C. chavaria* of South-eastern Brazil and Paraguay.
2. *C. derbiana* (= *C. nigricollis*) of the northern littoral of New Granada.

3. Descriptions of Three Species of Snakes of the Genus *Hoplocephalus*. By GERARD KREFFT, Curator and Secretary of the Australian Museum, Sydney, N.S.W., C.M.Z.S.

1. *HOPLOCEPHALUS ATER*, sp. nov.

Scales in 17 rows. Anal entire. Subcaudals 47. Ventrals 162.

Coloration.—Black; chin-shields whitish on outer margin; beneath bluish black, clouded with a somewhat lighter tint on the posterior part.

Head scarcely distinct from trunk, high, quadrangular, obtuse in front; anterior frontals as large again as the posterior ones, vertical five-sided, just as long as broad; occipitals very large, widely forked; six upper labials, fifth largest, leaving but one narrow temporal shield above it; there are two more temporals behind this one, of which the upper one is the largest. The occipitals do not come into contact with more than three scales on each side; whilst one scale is wedged in between the fork, making seven scales in all. There are seven lower labials, one nasal, one anterior, and two postoculars; the pupil is rounded.

Hab. Flinder's Range, South Australia. Discovered by Mr. George Masters, who found but one specimen.

2. *HOPLOCEPHALUS MASTERSII*, sp. nov.

Scales in 15 rows. Ventrals 136. Subcaudals 40, or more.

Head triangular, distinct from trunk, and pointed in front; vertical three times as long as broad; all the scales of the head much elongate; six upper and seven lower labials, one anterior, two postoculars, the first (anterior one) grooved.

Coloration.—Dark olive-green above and below, with the exception of a yellowish-white elongate patch in the middle of each ventral scale; all the scales very finely striated or keeled (which is not observable to the naked eye), and more or less finely black-dotted. Head darker than the body, a whitish band crossing the nape, a

second white band spotted with black beneath the eye from the rostral to the last upper labial.

In young specimens the ventral scales in the middle of body are red.

Hab. Flinder's Range. Collected by Mr. George Masters, who found seven specimens.

3. HOPLOCEPHALUS GOULDII, Gray (var.).

Scales in 15 rows. Anal entire. Ventrals 148. Subcaudals 34 ; in others 26, 27, 33, 31, and 29.

Head depressed, scarcely distinct from trunk ; vertical five-sided, with acute angle behind ; occipitals large, not much forked ; anterior frontals triangular ; posterior frontals quadrangular, somewhat larger than the former. Seven upper and seven lower labial scales, smooth, rather short, six-sided, lighter on the outer margin.

Coloration.—Greyish brown above, yellowish white below ; the marks upon the head vary in different individuals ; rostral, nasal, and anterior part of first pair of frontals marked with black ; remaining portion of anterior frontals and whole of posterior ones reddish, after which another black patch covers the vertical superciliaries and part of the occipitals, a faint star marking all the scales around the inner margin of the eye ; pupil subelliptical, erect ; a third black spot covers the nape of the neck, about four scales wide, but not reaching to the sides. In some of the specimens before me the second black patch is continuous, leaving only the tips of the occipitals and the scale between them reddish.

Hab. Port Lincoln. Collected by Mr. George Masters.

4. A Note on African Buffalos.

By EDWARD BLYTH, C.M.Z.S.

More than a quarter of a century ago, when the Society maintained its Museum in Leicester Square, it was in possession of the skin of a Buffalo from the Galla country south of Abyssinia, received from Dr. Rüppell, by whom the race was considered to be identical with the well-known *Bubalus caffer* of South Africa. To me it presented certain differences which seemed indicative of its being a distinguishable race, characterized by much smaller size and horns of greatly inferior development when fully grown ; moreover the latter did not bend decidedly downwards and then curve upwards as in the Cape animal, but were nearly on a level throughout, approximating to those of the *B. planiceros*, nobis, figured in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1863, p. 158. Although still possessing a carefully drawn figure of the frontlet of the Galla specimen, formerly in the Society's collection, I intentionally refrained from noticing it when exhibiting the frontlet of *B. planiceros*, figured in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1863, in the hope and expectation, which has now